



Professor Eugene O. ADAMOV, Director

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APRIL 3, 1992

DEAR MR. SELIN,

I AM WRITING TO YOU IN CONNECTION WITH SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS WHICH SET OUT YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOVIET NUCLEAR POWER SAFETY IN GENERAL, AND OF RBMK SAFETY IN PARTICULAR. THE LAST OF THESE ARTICLES APPEARED IN THE 2ND ISSUE OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER "WE", WRITTEN BY MR. J. WALLOCK.

IT IS NOT IMPROBABLE THAT THE ASSERTIONS MADE IN THESE PUBLICATIONS, WHICH HAVE EMOTIONAL RATHER THAN TECHNICAL MOTIVATION, SHOULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE INACCURATE PRESENTATION OF YOUR IDEAS BY THE CORRESPONDENTS. BUT WE SHOULD ALSO BEAR IN MIND THE FACT THAT NO SERIOUS STUDIES ON THE SAFETY OF NPPs WITH SUCH REACTORS HAVE EVER BEEN CONDUCTED IN THE USA, WHILE THOSE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT HAVE NEVER GROWN TO A PROPER LEVEL IN THE ABSENCE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE DOE OR NRC - AS OUR AMERICAN COLLEAGUES INFORMED US.

HOWEVER, THE OBVIOUS CONCERN OF THE NRC HEAD ABOUT THIS PROBLEM IS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE. MOREOVER, WE FEEL ENCOURAGED BY THE DECLARATION OF THE READINESS TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO A REAL SAFETY IMPROVEMENT. IF APART FROM THE WORK ENVISAGED IN THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT, SPECIAL ATTENTION IS TO BE PAID TO THE REACTORS YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT, THE FIRST STEP APPARENTLY TO BE TAKEN IN THIS DIRECTION IS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE US EXPERTS FORM A

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CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ACTUAL SAFETY SITUATION. WE BELIEVE THAT ONE WAY OF MAKING IT A REALITY IS FOR THE U.S. TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL PROJECT SET UP TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF NPPs WITH RBMK REACTORS, AS WELL AS THE WESTERN CONSORTIUM (FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, SWEDEN, AND UK) WHICH HAS ALREADY AGREED, TOGETHER WITH RUSSIA, LITHUANIA AND UKRAINE, TO DO THEIR SHARE OF WORK WITH A FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE CEC.

DURING THE IAEA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN VIENNA ON APRIL 6 THROUGH 10, AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO COORDINATE THIS PROJECT WITH THE SIMILAR WORK PLANNED BY THE AGENCY.

ANYWAY, WE ARE READY TO SUPPORT ANY OTHER FORMS WHICH YOU MIGHT FIND MORE APPROPRIATE, SINCE THE PROBLEMS OF ENSURING THE SAFETY OF OLD REACTORS - NO MATTER WHETHER THEY ARE SITED IN ENGLAND, USA OR RUSSIA - ARE COMMON TO THE ENTIRE NUCLEAR COMMUNITY AND SHOULD BE TACKLED JOINTLY.

WE TRULY APPRECIATE OUR COOPERATION WITH AMERICAN EXPERTS AND COMPANIES AND ARE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO ITS SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THE PREPARATION OF UNBIASED INFORMATION FOR GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.

WITH BEST REGARDS,

SINCERELY,


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